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EXAMINER

HOSSAIN, FARZANA E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/806,651	UENAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Farzana E. Hossain	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,7,8,10,12,13,15,16,18 and 24-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,7,8,10,12,13,15,16,18 and 24-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09-18-2006 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. This office action is in responsive to communications filed on 9/18/06. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 15, 24, 25, 26 are amended. Claims 10, 12, are previously presented. Claims 3-6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19-23 are cancelled. Claims 16, 18 are original. Claims 27-29 are new.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 09-18-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Niiijima discloses that EPG information, both text and video, are displayed for a plurality of channels. All other arguments are moot over new grounds of rejection.

### ***Specification***

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure. For instance, the claimed language and the disclosure include details about assigned priorities to text contents of EPG information.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: EPG Display Method for an EPG Based on Assigned Priorities and Zoom Magnification

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows. Claim 24 defines a recording medium being able to read by a computer that stores a program to cause a computer to perform, all of each operation or some of functions of said EPG information display method embodying functional descriptive material. However, the claim does not define a computer-readable medium or memory and is thus non-statutory for that reason (i.e., "When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized" – Guidelines Annex IV). That is, the scope of the presently claimed a recording medium being able to read by a computer that stores a program to cause a computer can range from paper on which the program is written, to a program simply contemplated and memorized by a person. The examiner suggests amending the claim to embody the program on "computer-readable medium" or equivalent in order to make the claim statutory. Any amendment to the claim should be commensurate with its corresponding disclosure.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 24, 25, 28, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harada et al (US 6,246,442 and hereafter referred to as "Harada")

Regarding Claim 1, Harada discloses an electronic program guide (EPG) information display method (Figures 8-10) for displaying EPG information, as both text and video (Figure 4, Figure 5), of a plurality of channels and a plurality of time frames (Figures 8-10), the method comprising: assigning priorities to text contents of the EPG program; in accordance with a zoom command instructing a continuous amount of zoom magnification or a first, second, third or fourth detail degree (Figure 5), EPG information of channels or time frames larger or smaller in number than channels or time frames displayed immediately before the zoom command is provided is displayed (Figure 7), detail information includes in the EPG in accordance with the magnification of the zoom command is selectively displayed (Figures 2 and 3); based on an order of the assigned priorities and based on the zoom magnification, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed to provide a maximum amount of text information that

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may be read by a viewer (Figure 5, Figures 8-10), selectively displaying in the EPG information the selected text contents (Figure 5, Figures 8-10).

Regarding Claim 25, Harada discloses a method of displaying an EPG on a display comprising the steps of: storing EPG data in a plurality of program information cells (Figure 3, 12, 15), the EPG data including video image data and text contents of EPG information (Figure 4, Figure 5); assigning priorities to the text contents of the EPG information (Figure 4, Figure 5); based on an order of the assigned priorities and a zoom level of the EPG, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed and determining in what order the text contents are to be displayed; selecting a first predetermined number of cells for EPG display based on the zoom level of the EPG; simultaneously displaying, on the EPG (Figures 8-10), the video image data stored and text contents selected for each cell (Figures 8-10); select one of magnifying the EPG by modifying the zoom level by selecting a second predetermined number of cells on the EPG, the second predetermined number being of less magnitude than the first predetermined number being of less magnitude than the first predetermined number (Figure 5, 8-10), and displaying the video image stored and the text contents selected for the cells in the second predetermined number of cells; and reducing the EPG by modifying the zoom level by selecting a third predetermined number of cells on the EPG, the third predetermined number being of greater magnitude than the first predetermined number, and displaying the video image data stored and the text contents selected for the cells in the third predetermined number of cells (Figures 5, 8-10).

Regarding Claim 7, Harada discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Harada discloses that for EPG information of each program displayed on the screen, an amount of EPG information to be displayed is changed according to a display area (Figure 5).

Regarding Claim 8, Harada discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Harada discloses that items of the EPG information displayed in each area in which the EPG information is to be displayed are decided based on a size of the area, the number of pixels when the area is displayed or the number of letters that can be shown in the area (Figures 13-15). Harada discloses including displaying an EPG based on the zoom magnification or detail degree and also that the EPG information can also be displayed based on blank spaces or the number of letters that can be shown (Figures 13-16).

Regarding Claim 10, Harada discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Harada discloses that the zoom command stepwisely changes a size from the channel and the time frame displayed (Figure 8) before the zoom command is provided to a new channel and a time frame displayed after the zoom command is provided (Figure 9).

Regarding Claim 24, Harada and Young disclose all the limitations of Claim 1, 7, 8, or 10. Harada discloses a recording medium (Figure 69, 273) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 69, 270) that stores a program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

Regarding Claims 28 and 29, Harada discloses all the limitations of Claims 1 and 25 respectively. Harada discloses text contents include title, genre, channel, and program detail information (Figure 4).



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1, 7, 16, 24, 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima et al (US 5,926,230 and hereafter referred to "Nijima") in view of Perlin et al (US 5,341,466 and hereafter referred to as "Perlin"), and Schein et al (US 2002/0129366 and hereafter referred to as "Schein").

Regarding Claim 1, Nijima discloses an electronic program guide (EPG) information display method (Figure 5) for displaying EPG information, as text and video (Figure 5, Column 16, lines 54-64) of a plurality of channels; the method comprising: assigning priorities or preference degree to items or categories such as sports or movie (Column 29, lines 20-35) representing contents of the EPG information including title, genre or categories, and channel (Column 10, lines 1-21), based on an order of the assigned priorities or preference degrees, selecting which of the items are to be displayed and determine in what order the items are to be displayed (Figure 25, Figure 26). Nijima discloses in accordance with a zoom command instructing a continuous amount of zoom magnification (Figure 5), displaying on a display the EPG information of channels or time frames larger or smaller in number than channels displayed immediately before the zoom command is (Figure 5), selectively displaying, in the EPG

information, the selected items in the determined order in accordance with the magnification of the zoom command (Figures 5, 21, Figures 25 and 26, Column 29, lines 25-34). Nijima is silent for displaying EPG information, as both text and video of a plurality of time frames and does not explicitly disclose assigning priorities to text contents of the EPG information, the zoom command zooms in or out the screen with respect to a center of the displayed EPG information and based on the order of the assigned priorities and based on the zoom magnification, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed to provide a maximum amount of text information that may be read by a viewer, selectively displaying, in the EPG information, the selected text contents.

Perlin discloses a computer system with a processor and operating system that displays data on a display area of a display unit (Figure 1, 111) and alls the system to modify the image via zooming (Figure 1). Perlin discloses the zoom command zooms in or out the screen with respect to EPG information of the displayed situated in the center or zooming to first or second level of detail (Figures 2-5). Schein discloses displaying EPG information (Figure 1, Figure 11), as both text and video over a plurality of channels and plurality of time frames (Figure 11, Page 8, paragraph 0137) assigning priorities to text contents of the EPG information or displaying the title of the program in the grid (Figure 11), instructing a zoom command (Figure 12) and based on an order of assigned priorities and based on a zoom command, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed to provide a maximum amount of text information that may be displayed by a viewer or displaying more detailed information including year, duration,

director, actors, and description as specific detailed information is displayed to the user when the zoom command is given (Figure 12) and selectively displaying, in the EPG information, the selected text contents or displaying the title, year, duration, director, actors, and description (Figure 12) without other data including theme data, critics rating which are provided with EPG data of the shows that are listed (Page 5, paragraph 0079-0082). It is necessarily included that text contents that are viewed in specific order have priorities assigned to them as the title is displayed at all times and has priority.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Nijima to include that the zoom command zooms in or out the screen with respect to EPG information of the displayed situated in the center or zooming to first or second level of detail (Figures 2-5) as taught by Perlin in order to allow users to choose a menu of options from a presentation of information depending on size (Column 1, lines 6-12, 42-50) and to show complex information even though display screen area becomes inadequate (Column 1, lines 15-19) as disclosed by Perlin. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima to include displaying EPG information (Figure 1, Figure 11), as both text and video over a plurality of channels and plurality of time frames (Figure 11, Page 8, paragraph 0137) assigning priorities to text contents of the EPG information or displaying the title of the program in the grid (Figure 11), instructing a zoom command (Figure 12) and based on an order of assigned priorities and based on a zoom command, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed to provide a maximum amount of text information that may be displayed by a

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viewer or displaying more detailed information including year, duration, director, actors, and description (Figure 12) and selectively displaying, in the EPG information, the selected text contents or displaying the title, year, duration, director, actors, and description (Figure 12, Page 5, paragraph 0079-0082) as taught by Schein in order to assist the user with sorting through various programs (Page 1, paragraph 0006) as disclosed by Schein.

Regarding Claim 7, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Schein discloses the EPG information to be displayed for each channel on the display (Figure 11); an amount of EPG information is displayed is changed according to a size of an area on the display in which the EPG information is displayed (Figure 12). Perlin discloses that information is displayed on the screen and that an amount of information to be displayed is changed according to a display area for the information (Figures 2-5).

Regarding Claim 16, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Schein discloses a function to operate in conjunction with a recorder is provided (Figure 21), in an area in which EPG information of a program of which recording is associated with said recorder is displayed (Figures 21, 22, 23), recording condition information for said recorder is displayed so as to be superimposed on the EPG information (Figure 22, 302).

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claims 1, 7 and 16. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a program to

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cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

Regarding Claim 28, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Schein discloses text contents include title, genre or theme, channel, and program detail information (Page 5, Channel Data Table; paragraphs 0079-0082).

11. Claims 2, 24, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Young et al (US 5,949,954 and hereafter referred to as "Young").

Regarding Claim 2, Nijima, Perlin, and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Nijima discloses that EPG information is displayed and zoom magnification (Figures 5 and 21). Nijima, Perlin, Schein do not teach that the program has to be on the air in order to be displayed. Young discloses that the predetermined channel and time frame are in a scope where a decision is made with reference to a channel and a time of program to be on the air being set in display mean in order to display the EPG information (Figures 2 and 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein predetermined channel and time frame are in a scope where a decision is made with reference to a channel and a time of program to be on the air being set in display mean in order to display the EPG information (Figures 2 and 3) as taught by Young in order to allow users a convenient way to access television program listings (Column 1, lines 15-27) as disclosed by Young.

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Young disclose all the limitations of Claim 2. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

Regarding Claim 27, Nijima, Perlin, and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Schein discloses that a program may be selected by the EPG to perform recording (Figure 25). Nijima, Perlin, and Schein are silent on receiving a selection of an area in which EPG information of a program that has already been recorded is displayed. Young discloses by selecting an area in which the EPG information of a program that has already been recorded is displayed (Figure 2). Young discloses that if the "What's On Tape" feature is selected a recorded program can be selected from this directory and reproduced or played (Figure 13). It is necessarily included that if a recorded program is displayed on the EPG (Figure 3) and selection is received of an area of the EPG information that reproduction of the program corresponding to the selected area is started. Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to select an area of the EPG with recorded programs displayed and reproducing the programs (Figure 13) as taught by Young in order to allow users a convenient way to access television program listings including recorded programs (Column 1, lines 15-27) as disclosed by Young.

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12. Claims 8, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin, Schein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Davis et al (US 5,559,548 and hereafter referred to as "Davis").

Regarding Claims 8, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Schein discloses the EPG information to be displayed for each channel on the display (Figure 11); an amount of EPG information is displayed is changed according to a size of an area on the display in which the EPG information is displayed (Figure 12). Perlin discloses that information is displayed on the screen and that an amount of information to be displayed is changed according to a display area for the information (Figures 2-5). Nijima, Perlin and Schein are silent on items of information displayed based on size of area. Davis discloses that text contents and/or EPG information for each channel are to be displayed in each area in which the EPG information is to be displayed are decide based on a size of the area, a number of pixels when the area is displayed or the number of letters can be shown in the area (Figures 5b, 5c, 7b, 10A). Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to include that text contents and EPG information displayed in each area in which the information is to be displayed are decide based on a size of the area, the number of pixels when the area is displayed or the number of letters can be shown in the area (Figures 5b, 5c, 7b, 10A) as taught by Davis in order to present an EPG that is more versatile, readable and aesthetically pleasing (Column 1, lines 9-16) as disclosed by Davis.

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Davis disclose all the limitations of Claim 8. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

13. Claims 10, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin, Schein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Matthews, III (US 5,815,145 and hereafter referred to as "Matthews").

Regarding Claim 10, Nijima, Perlin, and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Nijima discloses changing size of channels displayed for new channels after zoom command (Figure 5, Figure 21). Perlin discloses zooming into the content (Figures 2-5) and that the content is zoomed into one step at a time (Figures 2-5). Nijima, Perlin, Schein are silent on the zooming stepwisely changes size and a new time displayed based on EPG information. Matthews discloses contents of the EPG information, the contents including title, genre, broadcasting mode or closed captioning, channel, and program detail information (Column 7, lines 43-67, Column 8, lines 1-7, 28-37). Matthews discloses displaying EPG information, as both text and video, for a plurality of channels and time frames. Matthews discloses displaying, on the display, currently broadcast video of a channel currently selected for display simultaneously with the EPG information (Figure 4, Column 4, lines 56-61). Matthews discloses that the zoom command stepwisely changes a size from the channel and the time frame



displayed (Figure 6) before the zoom command is provided to new time frames displayed after the zoom command is provided (Figure 4 and Figure 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to include the zoom command stepwisely changes a size from the channel and the time frame displayed (Figure 6) before the zoom command is provided to new time frames displayed after the zoom command is provided (Figure 4 and Figure 6) as taught by Matthews in order to improve on previous program guides which only provide inadequate program information (Column 1, lines 61-67) as disclosed by Matthews by providing the most information to a viewer of television to conveniently make the best choice for his interests.

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Matthews disclose all the limitations of Claim 10. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

14. Claims 12, 13, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lemmons et al (US 5,880,768 and hereafter referred to as "Lemmons").

Regarding Claim 12, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Nijima discloses a sorting mode via a genre or theme (Figures 5). Nijima,

Perlin and Young are silent on a search mode and the search criterion displayed in a different color. Lemmons discloses that an EPG operation function mode is a search mode when an area in which the EPG information of a program is displayed is selected and specified and areas of programs associated with the program are shown in different color or brightness (Figure 7 and Column 14, lines 52-64). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to include a search mode with EPG information is displayed and areas of the program shown in a different color (Column 13, lines 53-65) as taught by Lemmons in order to provide a convenient EPG and allow the viewer or user to locate programs of interest (Column 1, lines 5-17).

Regarding Claim 13, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Lemmons disclose all the limitations of Claim 12. Nijima discloses a sorting mode via a genre or theme (Figure 5). Lemmons discloses that under a condition where the EPG operation function mode is the search mode (Figure 3, 116), a cursor for selecting and specifying an area corresponding to a search result selectively moves among parts of the areas in which EPG information is displayed which area are shown in the different color or highlighted (Column 13, lines 53-65).

Regarding Claim 15, Nijima, Perlin and Schein discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Nijima, Perlin and Schein are silent on the display of search results. Lemmons displays a search mode where EPG information is displayed in a manner of search results, where only programs of the channels fulfilling the search criterion are displayed (Figure 7). Lemmons displays the programs in a fashion where the channels

are in alphabetical order (i.e. HBO, Max, REQ, SHO) (Figure 7). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Lemmons to display the results in a manner where they display the channel axis or so as to be close to one another in a direction of a channel axis in order to provide a different viewing of the search results. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to include a search mode to display the search results in a close manner (Figure 7) as taught by Lemmons in order to provide a convenient EPG and allow the viewer or user to locate programs of interest (Column 1, lines 5-17).

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Lemmons discloses all the limitations of Claim 12 or 15. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

15. Claims 12, 13, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Legall et al (US 6,005,565 and hereafter referred to as "Legall").

Regarding Claim 12, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Young discloses a sorting mode via a genre or theme search (Figures 15-17). Nijima, Perlin and Young are silent on a search mode and the search criterion displayed in a different color. Legall discloses that an EPG operation function mode is a search mode when an area in which the EPG information of a program is displayed is

selected and specified and areas of programs associated with the program are shown in different color or brightness (Column 4, lines 49-53, Column 5, lines 1-21). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to include a search mode with EPG information is displayed and areas of the program shown in a different color (Column 4, lines 49-53) as taught by Legall in order to provide a convenient EPG and allow the viewer or user to locate programs of interest (Column 1, lines 5-17) as disclosed by Legall.

Regarding Claim 13, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Legall disclose all the limitations of Claim 12. Young discloses a sorting mode via a genre or theme search (Figures 15-17). Nijima, Perlin and Young are silent on a search mode and the search criterion displayed in a different color. Legall discloses that under a condition where the EPG operation function mode is the search mode (Figures 2, 3A, 3B), a cursor for selecting and specifying an area corresponding to a search result selectively moves among parts of the areas in which EPG information is displayed which area are shown in the different color or highlighted (Column 4, lines 49-65).

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Legall disclose all the limitations of Claim 12. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

16. Claims 18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Schein et al (US 6,133,909 and hereafter referred to as "Schein2").

Regarding Claim 18, Nijima, Perlin and Schein disclose all the limitations of Claim 16. Nijima and Perlin are silent on condition information of recording. Schein discloses a function to operate in conjunction with a recorder is provided (Figure 21), in an area in which EPG information of a program of which recording is associated with said recorder is displayed (Figures 21, 22, 23), recording condition information for said recorder is displayed so as to be superimposed on the EPG information (Figure 22, 302). Schein2 discloses that multiple recorders may exist whether digital or analog (Column 3, lines 36-43). Schein2 discloses that the user can choose which select the recording device (Column 5, lines 1-3). It is necessarily that condition information for the recorder is information representing a type of the recorder. Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima in view of Perlin and Schein to include multiple recorders to select the type of recorder (Column 3, lines 36-43 and Column 5, lines 1-3) as taught by Schein2 in order to allow automatic unattended recording of one or more programs (Column 4, lines 63-67) as disclosed by Schein2.

Regarding Claim 24, Nijima, Perlin, Schein and Schein2 discloses all the limitations of Claim 18. Nijima discloses a recording medium (Figure 11B, 37) being able to be read by a computer or computer system (Figure 11B, 29) that stores a

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program to cause a computer to perform some of the functions of the EPG information display method.

17. Claims 25, 26, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Schein, Matthews, and Oosterhout et al (US 6,405,371 and hereafter referred to as "Oosterhout").

Regarding Claim 25, Nijima discloses displaying an EPG on a display comprising the steps of: storing EPG data in a plurality of program information cells, the EPG data including video image data (Figures 5, 7, 20, 25, 26) with a predetermined number of cells for EPG display (Column 19, lines 58-66), simultaneously displaying on the EPG video image data stored for each cell (Figures 5, 7, 20, 25, 26) and text contents (Column 16, lines 54-64). Nijima discloses zooming on the EPG or a zoom level of the EPG (Figure 5). Nijima discloses displaying video information and items selected such as movies, sports or news (Column 10, lines 1-21, Figures 25, 26). Nijima is silent on assigning priorities to the text contents of the EPG information and based on the assigned priorities and a zoom level of the EPG that selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed and determining in what order the text contents are to be displayed; selecting a first predetermined number of cells based on the zoom level of the EPG; simultaneously displaying on the EPG, the video image data stored and the text contents selected for each cell selected; and magnifying the EPG by modifying the zoom level by selecting a third predetermined number of cells on the EPG, the second number being of less magnitude and displaying the video image data for the cells, and

text contents of the EPG information for the cells in the second predetermined number of cells.

Schein discloses displaying EPG information (Figure 1, Figure 11), as both text and video over a plurality of channels and plurality of time frames (Figure 11, Page 8, paragraph 0137) assigning priorities to text contents of the EPG information or displaying the title of the program in the grid (Figure 11), instructing a zoom command (Figure 12) and based on an order of assigned priorities and based on a zoom command, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed to provide a maximum amount of text information that may be displayed by a viewer or displaying more detailed information including year, duration, director, actors, and description as specific detailed information is displayed to the user when the zoom command is given (Figure 12) and selectively displaying, in the EPG information, the selected text contents or displaying the title, year, duration, director, actors, and description (Figure 12) without other data including theme data, critics rating which are provided with EPG data of the shows that are listed (Page 5, paragraph 0079-0082). It is necessarily included that text contents that are viewed in specific order have priorities assigned to them as the title is displayed at all times and has priority. Matthews discloses contents of the EPG information, the contents including title, genre, broadcasting mode or closed captioning, channel, and program detail information (Column 7, lines 43-67, Column 8, lines 1-7, 28-37). Matthews discloses displaying, on the display, currently broadcast video of a channel currently selected for display simultaneously with the text contents (Figure 4, Column 4, lines 56-61). It is necessarily included that the text contents that are

displayed the channel have assigned priorities to be displayed. Oosterhout discloses selecting a first predetermined number of cells (Figure 4, Figure 8, Column 5, lines 9-20) for EPG display, magnifying the EPG by modifying the zoom level by selecting a third predetermined number of cells on the EPG, the second number being of less magnitude and displaying the video image data for the cells, and text contents of the EPG information for the cells in the second predetermined number of cells (Figures 4, 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima to include displaying EPG information (Figure 1, Figure 11), as both text and video over a plurality of channels and plurality of time frames (Figure 11, Page 8, paragraph 0137) assigning priorities to text contents of the EPG information or displaying the title of the program in the grid (Figure 11), instructing a zoom command (Figure 12) and based on an order of assigned priorities and based on a zoom command, selecting which of the text contents are to be displayed to provide a maximum amount of text information that may be displayed by a viewer or displaying more detailed information including year, duration, director, actors, and description (Figure 12) and selectively displaying, in the EPG information, the selected text contents or displaying the title, year, duration, director, actors, and description (Figure 12, Page 5, paragraph 0079-0082) as taught by Schein in order to assist the user with sorting through various programs (Page 1, paragraph 0006) as disclosed by Schein. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima to include that contents of



the EPG information includes broadcasting mode and program detail information (Column 7, lines 43-67, Column 8, lines 1-7, 28-37) and displaying, on the display, currently broadcast video of a channel currently selected for display simultaneously with the EPG information (Figure 4, Column 4, lines 56-61) as taught by Matthews in order to improve on previous program guides which only provide inadequate program information (Column 1, lines 61-67) as disclosed by Matthews by providing the most information to a viewer of television to conveniently make the best choice for his interests. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to modify Nijima for selecting a first predetermined number of cells (Figure 4, Column 5, lines 9-14) for EPG display, magnifying the EPG by modifying the zoom level by selecting a third predetermined number of cells on the EPG, the second number being of less magnitude and displaying the video image data for the cells, and text contents of the EPG information for the cells in the second predetermined number of cells (Figures 4, 8) as taught by Oosterhout in order to provide enhance the convenience of the EPG (Column 1, lines 31-34) as disclosed by Oosterhout.

Regarding Claim 26, Nijima, Schein, Matthews and Oosterhout disclose all the limitations of Claim 25. Nijima discloses storing broadcasting channel number and broadcasting time for each of the plurality of cells (Column 11, lines 18-23). Nijima discloses storing video image data for each cell including currently broadcasting video corresponding to a channel and the current time (Column 9, lines 47-55, Figure 4, Column 14, lines 66-67). Matthews discloses storing the video image data stored in each cell includes a video highlight for a channel corresponding to the broadcasting

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channel number and broadcasting time stored in the each cell (Column 7, lines 43-67, Column 8, lines 1-7, 28-37). Oosterhout discloses selecting the first predetermined number of cells (Figures 4, 8), each having a similar broadcasting time and arranged in a tunable sequence of broadcasting channel numbers (Column 2, lines 37-45, Figure 7).

Regarding Claim 29, Nijima, Schein, Matthews and Oosterhout disclose all the limitations of Claim 25. Schein discloses text contents include title, genre or theme, channel, and program detail information (Page 5, Channel Data Table; paragraphs 0079-0082).

### ***Conclusion***

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farzana E. Hossain whose telephone number is 571-272-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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FEH  
November 7, 2006

  
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